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**TO: PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
CHAIRMAN, SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN, SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN, HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN, HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: Strategic Forces Decision**

NSC Review Completed.

On January 3, 1983, I established a bipartisan Commission to respond to the issues raised by the Congress regarding the Peacekeeper missile, possible alternatives to the Peacekeeper, and possible alternative ICBM basing modes. The report, which the Commission submitted to me, was delivered to you last week. Attached is a classified report submitted pursuant to the provisions of subsection (7) of Title V of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1983, enacted as part of P.L. 97-377. The attached document addresses the issues set out in subsection (7).

I am pleased to report to you that the distinguished group of Americans who served on the Commission have unanimously agreed on a package of actions, which I strongly support, and on which Secretary Weinberger, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the members of the National Security Council have joined with me in supporting. They are as follows:

- (1) Improve as a first priority the command, control, and communications for our strategic forces; continue with high priority the Trident submarine and D-5 missile programs; and continue the bomber and air-launched cruise missile efforts as planned.

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- (2) Proceed with the immediate production of the Peacekeeper missile, and deployment of 100 such missiles in existing Minuteman silos in Wyoming and Nebraska supported by F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, which I propose as the alternative basing plan required by P.L. 97-377. I have chosen F.E. Warren AFB because the missiles can be deployed in existing silos that offer the best operational considerations, and in a location where environmental analysis is well underway.
- (3) Commence engineering design of a small, single warhead ICBM. If strategic and technical considerations warrant, such a missile could be ready for full scale development in 1986 and potential deployment in the early 1990's.
- (4) Expand research into, and undertake the most rigorous examination of, all forms of defense against ballistic missiles. This includes work on penetration aids, such as decoys, to cope with any potential Soviet breakout from the ABM Treaty. Frankly, I am more hopeful than the Commission that the vigorous research efforts and plans I have for a new and more effective BMD will produce favorable results sooner than envisioned by the Commission.

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- (5) Undertake a specific program to resolve uncertainties regarding silo and shelter hardness, a study of fratricide effects, and investigation of different types of land-based vehicles and launchers, particularly hardened vehicles.

Finally, I reconfirm that I am fully committed to continue to pursue ambitious and objective arms control negotiations with a goal of agreements that are balanced, promote stability in time of crisis, constitute meaningful force reductions, and are verifiable. As you know, our proposals to secure reductions of all types of weapons are before the Soviets in many forums.

I urge the Congress to join me now in this bipartisan effort to settle on a modernization plan for our strategic forces. For more than a decade, each of four administrations has made proposals for arms control and modernization that have become embroiled in political controversy.

The members of the Commission, the Secretary of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and I have all had to take fresh looks at our previous positions. Despite the range of views these groups have held in the past, we are presenting to you a unanimous view on this vital issue. Your support for the consensus can unite us in making a major step forward in our common search for ways to ensure national security.

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